

Message Information

Date 10/28/2010 12:48 PM  
From Powermfm@aol.com  
To LisaP Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc  
Subject Request for Extension of Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements

Message Body



Letter as attached Jackson Letter with 17 signers.doc

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OEX Processing Information

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Ms. Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Docket ID No. EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The undersigned agricultural organizations would like to request that the proposed comment period for the draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL for nutrients and sediment be extended from the current 45 days to 120 days minimum.

We have based this request on a number of critically important concerns that the agriculture community has regarding the potential impact the Draft TMDL will have on production agriculture in the Bay region. Given the complexity and far-reaching implications that these new standards will have on individual farming operations and the overall economic health of the rural communities in the region we believe it is imperative that the comment period be extended to at least 120 days.

Agriculture has been one of the leading sectors in the Bay Region in the implementation of conservation practices aimed at reducing both nitrogen and phosphorus run-off and sediment. Millions of dollars have been spent in cost-share funds from both USDA's NRCS and State Departments of Agriculture in applying conservation practices on individual farms and in modifying cropping and livestock and poultry operations to reduce nutrient and sediment run-off. At the same time farmers have implemented voluntary conservation practices on their own which have made a significant contribution to the Bay's water quality.

The proposed TMDL requirements need to be analyzed very closely to determine both the environmental and economic effects they will have on agriculture. The 45 day comment period does not provide a sufficient time frame to accomplish this. Therefore we respectfully request the comment period be extended to 120 days.

Sincerely,

Agri-Mark, Inc.  
American Horse Council  
American Meat Institute  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Dairylea Cooperative, Inc.  
National Chicken Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Milk Producers Federation

National Turkey Federation  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
Perdue Farms, Inc.  
Select Milk Producers, Inc.  
St. Albans Cooperative  
Texas Association of Dairymen  
United Egg Producers  
Upstate-Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
Virginia Poultry Federation

Please direct response to:

Mr. Bob Gray  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
6354 Alderman Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
[Bgray15452@aol.com](mailto:Bgray15452@aol.com)  
703 751 8022